FALL PROTECTION NEWS BULLETIN

18 January 2001

I. STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS UPDATE

1. **ANSI Z359.0: American National Standards Institute recently formed a new subcommittee to draft new standards entitled *"Fall Protection and Prevention Program."* The subcommittee held its first meeting to draft the new long awaited standards at a recent meeting at the American Society of Safety Engineers in Chicago, IL. The new standards will include the following information and guidance on how to manage a fall protection program: hazard assessment, prevention and control; various systems and guidelines; design requirements; inspection, maintenance and storage requirements; fall protection and prevention plans; accident investigation; and fall protection and prevention during planning and design phase.**

2. **ANSI Z359.2: This is a new standard titled "Safety Requirements for Positioning and Restraining Systems". This standard is in the draft stage. The standard establishes requirements for the performance, design, markings, qualification, test methods, instruction, training, use maintenance and removal from service of connectors, belts, harnesses, lifelines, and anchorage connectors comprising personnel positioning and restraint equipment.**

3. **ANSI Z359.3: The standard titled "Assisted and Self Rescue Systems" is in the draft stage. This standard establishes the requirements for components, subsystems and systems used in assisted rescue and self-rescue activities associated with use of fall equipment and systems.**

4. **ANSI A10.32: The standard for "Personnel Fall Protection Used in Construction and Demolition Operations" is in the final stages. This standard replaces ANSI A10.14-1991, "Construction and Demolition Operations - Requirements for Safety Belts, Harnesses, Lanyards and Lifelines for Construction and Demolition Use".**

5. **ANSI Z359.1-R1999: The standard titled Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest, Subsystems and Components is presently being revised to reflect the latest changes in manufactured fall arrest equipment, methods and procedures and to comply with the latest changes in the fall protection industry and application.**

II. MISCELLENEOUS NEWS

1. **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends strategic precautions against falls. Falls are the second leading cause of work related occupational fatal injuries, after motor vehicle crashes. In 1999, 717 workers died of injuries caused by falls from roofs, ladders, scaffolds, and from elevations. For this and other news log on to** http://www.occupationalhazards.com/

2. **The most recently updated version of the "NAVFAC Fall Protection Guide" dated 21 September 2000 has been posted on the NAVFAC Safety and Health Web Page. The address for accessing the guide is** http://www.navfac-safety.navy.mil **. *C*lick on the "*NAVFAC Fall Protection Guide".* The updated version includes the addition of new chapters, and updating and reorganizing of the existing ones.**

3. **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Safety and Health Requirements, EM 385-1-1 shall be included and enforced on all DoD contracts involving construction, dismantling demolition or removal work. Contractors performing such work shall comply with pertinent provisions of the latest version of the manual (FAR 52.236-13).**

4. **The International Organization for Standards (ISO) headquartered in Geneva Switzerland is comprised of more than 20 countries. The ISO is drafting new international standards for Horizontal Lifelines (HLL). The U.S. is participating in drafting such standards and is well represented in the working group. Presently, there are no U.S. Standards for HLLs. However, if international standards for HLL are complete they will be adopted by ANSI.**

5. **The main differences between ISO and ANSI fall protection standards "Fall arrest Systems" include:**

	ANSI	ISO
Maximum Arresting Force:	**1,800 lb**	**1,350 lb**
Max Weight of Worker using Full Body Harness	**310 lb**	**220 lb**

III. FALL PROTECTION TIDBITS

1. **The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is warning against the shoveling of snow from roofs. Shoveling snow off roofs is hazardous because it is easily possible to slip off a roof or ladder. ASSE offers the following suggestions for safe snow removal:**
   - **Never step on sloped roof or in some cases on an icy flat roof unless you are using the proper fall protection.**
   - **When using a ladder, make sure it is set at the correct angle with the bottom feet of the ladder approximately one-fourth of the distance from the foot of the ladder straight up to where it is supported by a wall or roof edge.**
   - **When climbing onto a roof using a ladder, make sure that the ladder extends approximately 3 feet over the supporting edge, not more or less.**
   - **Do not spread ice-melting chemicals on the roof because it could cause damage to the roof and drainage system.**

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